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Australian Geologist Asserts Science of Creation

By Kathleen Frossard

On Oct. 30, Australian geologist John MacKay presented "Genesis and Geology: The Rocky Record of Evolution and the Rock Solid Evidence of Creation." MacKay presented a creationist view of evolution in the event hosted by the GSU Bible Student Fellowship.

MacKay discussed how religion and science are often seen as vastly different. However, many of the first geologists were clergymen. The study of geology did not begin with Greeks, but rather during the Christian age. MacKay explained how Christians reasoned that "the world can be trusted," while ancient Greeks viewed geology as "the tricks of the gods."

MacKay asserts his scientific justification of creation. He believes that the current accepted theories of evolu-

tion are as much a matter of faith as those of creationists.

According to T.S. Kamp, Curator of Zoological Collections-Oxford University, "To account for evolutionary changes that take millions to hundreds of millions of years to completion solely by reference to processes that can be studied over tens of years requires extraordinary faith."

MacKay pointed out, "The real reason that people reject creation is because of their own philosophies, not because of any scientific



Photo by Robert Wysocki

**Creationist John MacKay
traveled from Australia to
speak at GSU.**

MacKay argues that "the present is not the key to the past."

A disastrous flood, mentioned in the Bible, is the cause of such formation and fossilization. MacKay explained that only a catastrophe would have caused an animal to become fos-

silized. He also used fossils to establish his flood theory.

Charles Lyell is credited with establishing the idea that "the present is the key to the past." He argued that rock formations took millions of years to be produced by studying their present rate of formation.

MacKay also used fossils in his attempt to disprove evolution. Some fossilized animals still exist in much smaller form today. In the New Testament, men such as Adam were said to have lived more than 900 years. MacKay reasoned that since men lived longer, so did animals. Some animals continue to grow as they age, so today's animals have not evolved, but simply live shorter lives.

More than 100 people attended the lecture. Attendees were able to speak with MacKay, who traveled to GSU from Australia, afterward.

Web Registration, Much More Now Available

By Carole Schrock

In this digital era, more and more of the services people use daily have gone the way of ones and zeroes. Now, GSU's Registrar's Office has followed suit, altering many of its services and creating the Student Web Information System.

The Registrar's office has been working for the past year with Information Technology Services to make web registration available to all students, along with many other services. By logging onto the system using their social security number and PIN number, students are able to see on the website whether they have any holds on their account, view their academic history at GSU and a short bio of their basic information.

Web registration is something the Registrar's Office is particularly excited about. They put it through some preliminary testing with the Student Senate before they introduced it to the whole student body, and Registrar Dora Smith thinks it will be faster for students.

"I like (the Web registration) better than the touch tone system," she said.

To improve the registration process in general, a registration committee has been put together, chaired by Larry Polselli, executive director of enrollment services. The committee is made up of members from ten departments on campus, all that provide services to students.

"Our objective is to make registration as easy for students as we can," Polselli said.

The committee has arranged the purchase of 5 computer terminals that will be outside the Registrar's Office where the current telephone bank sits. For right now, the telephones will remain there. The Registrar is not yet eliminating the touchtone registration system, but Smith says it will eventually be phased out. These computers, one of which will be handicapped accessible, will be available only during Registrar Office hours of operation and will be limited to the Student Web Information System.

Setup of another bank of computers has been planned by the registration committee. Seven computers will sit on the far wall of the cafeteria and will be available to students for any regular online use. The computers in both

See WEB, page 7

Grades Now a Click Away

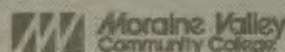
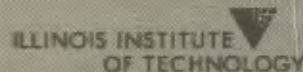
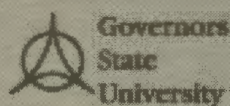
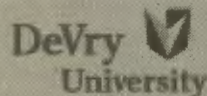
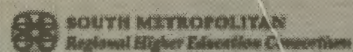
By Carole Schrock

Students will face some major changes with the introduction of the Student Web Information System. Students' grades, for example, will no longer be automatically mailed to them. Grades for current and past trimesters may now be viewed on the website when a student accesses their account. It is the hope of the Registrar's Office that this change will eventually save the university some money.

Registrar Dora Smith wants to make it clear that grades are still available through the mail. For students who may need to submit a grade report to an employer or who simply like

See GRADES, page 7

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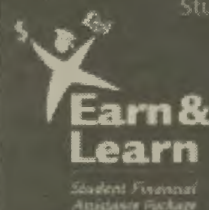
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Former Senator Encourages Patriotism

By Thomas McInerney

At 10 minutes after 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, Dr. Paul Keys, provost of Governors State University, stepped up to the podium in Sherman Recital Hall to introduce Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Roger K. Oden, who in turn introduced Former Senator and Current U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand Carol Moseley-Braun. Braun came to GSU to deliver a speech on the topic of democratization of diplomacy.

Braun, having spent the last three years as ambassador to New Zealand, brought her knowledge of foreign policy and international interest to the assembled group of listeners. Her speech emphasized that diplomacy is not something done only on a high level. Diplomacy is done through every person in contact with someone of a different nation.

Every American who comes in contact with a person from another country is, in a way, an ambassador of the United States. Because of this, according to Moseley-Braun, every citizen of this country is influencing foreign policy in his or her own way.

Moseley-Braun urged to the audience to consider pop-

ular opinion. Popular opinion of the people can and does dictate foreign policy, she says. We trade with China and Russia (both communist countries), but not with Cuba (another communist country), for one reason.



Carol Moseley-Braun was the first African-American female senator.

Miami's residents are the reason, Moseley-Braun says, we don't trade with Cuba.

Miami is largely populated by Cuban immigrants, who often tell horror stories about Cuba. They have a large part, according to Moseley-Braun, in dictating the trade policy of the United States. This is a prime example of the lowest level (the people with no elected position)

telling the highest level (the national government) how to do something, and the highest level listening to them.

Many people seem to want to bomb Iraq. But others in this country and many different countries realize how costly a war with Iraq would be. Because of the enormously high cost of a war with Iraq, many people don't see a war as the best option. Again, it's an example of the lowest level telling the highest level what to do, and the highest level listening.

After delivering her speech, Braun received a standing ovation, then opened the floor to questions. Braun then answered some questions on her personal policies, including running

for office, and health care in the U.S. and New Zealand.

She received a second standing ovation after questions, and a quiet audience left with a topic to reflect on. How could they, as U.S. citizens, help their country in the global community? How could they, as average people, effect their country's foreign relations and international policy?

Photo by Robert Wysocki

Draw a Logo, Bring Home a Benjamin

Now that the newspaper has a new name, it needs a new look, too.

Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to create a piece of artwork to appear next to the name in the banner on the front page.

- Art may or may not relate to the mythological Phoenix bird.
- Keep in mind, the art will appear somewhat small on the page.

PHOENIX

- If submitted electronically, art should be saved as a Jpeg, Gif, Psd or another easily-read computer file and emailed as an attachment to cshar2810@mail.govst.edu or submitted on a readable CD.
- If submitted as hard copy, please deliver to Phoenix

office, A2134, or Carole Schrock's mailbox in student life. (Please remember to put it, unfolded, in an envelope.)

- Deadline is Jan. 17, 2003.

Entries will be evaluated and a winner will be chosen to receive \$100 and have his or her artwork appear on the Phoenix front page. Good luck!!

News Briefs

Important Health Insurance Workshop

Governors State University College of Health Professions Health Administration Program is offering a workshop in Achieving and Maintaining Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Compliance on 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15. Two of the workshop's presenters are GSU graduates.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is intended to improve the portability and continuity of health insurance coverage, combat waste, fraud and abuse in healthcare, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, and to simplify the administration of health insurance. Most covered entities must be compliant with the HIPAA privacy regulations by April 14, 2003.

Covered entities are required to develop HIPAA compliance programs making changes to policies and procedures, information systems and infrastructures. Staff of all levels are required to be trained on the organizational changes made as a result of HIPAA requirements. Meeting the required compliance dates is only the beginning, since maintaining HIPAA compliance will require on-going assessment of any regulatory changes in order to revise policies and procedures, or make any further systems or infrastructure changes.

This workshop may be taken on a not-for-credit basis for \$105 per participant, or for continuing professional education credits for an additional \$5, (\$110 total). Participants must register to attend. To register, go to http://www.govst.edu/dxd/files/hipaa_form.pdf, complete the form and mail or fax to: Governors State University, Division of Extended Learning, OTS Building, Attention: HIPAA Workshop, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60466-0975. Fax: 708/534-8458

For questions or assistance, please contact Governors State University's Division of Extended Learning at 708-534-4099 or via e-mail at gsudxd@govst.edu.

Professors Union Contract Negotiations

GSU's professors union is currently in negotiations with the administration for a contract both sides can agree on. The two groups have been meeting since April over contract issues. They have not yet come to an agreement. The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 13 in the BPA Dean's Conference Room (C3303).

Neediest Kids Christmas Fund

Donations for the Neediest Kids Christmas Fund are currently being collected in the cafeteria. The Fund helps underprivileged children have a happy Christmas.

Career Services Job Fair

Career Services will hold a Job Fair in the Hall of Governors noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 20. For more information, call ext. 3974.

Nursing Program Gains Maximum Accreditation

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission was on campus the last week of October to review the program's standing. It has recommended accreditation for the maximum 8 year term. The recommendation will be reviewed and the final decision will be announced in March.

Senate VP Recipient of High Honor

By Carole Schrock

Maher Hussein was overwhelmed when he received a letter in the mail on Oct. 15 telling him he was the recipient of Illinois' distinguished Lincoln Laureate Award. He knew he had been nominated, but was nevertheless surprised that he had won.

"I'm telling you," he said, "I was shocked."

This award, given by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, is awarded to a senior at each of the state's 52 colleges and universities and is the highest award in the state for a college student. Students are nominated by members of their university who feel the student represents excellence in academic performance, as well as university community involvement. Nominations are submitted by each school and reviewed by the Lincoln Academy for

approval.

Hussein had four nominations. Dr. Heikko Heino and Prof. Ross Andersen, professors of finance, were both instructors with whom Hussein has taken classes. Executive Director of Student Life Dr. Lorraine Sibbet oversees Hussein's efforts in the GSU Student Senate, as does senate President Verna Jackson, both of whom nominated Hussein.

As recipient of the Lincoln Laureate Award, Hussein received a \$150 honorarium, which he used to travel to Springfield to attend the cere-



Maher Hussein wants to make big change in the world around him.

mony honoring all those college seniors who received the award. The ceremony was at the old Capitol building and a luncheon was at the executive mansion. All recipients met Gov. George Ryan

received a medallion and a certificate.

The ceremony was great, according to Hussein, who said he felt elegant in the executive mansion. He was honored to meet the governor and his wife and was impressed by the whole affair, especially the lunch.

"I have never tasted food like that," he said.

Hussein, originally from Palestine, will graduate in December of this year with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He has already been accepted into the Master of Business Administration college and has begun work on that degree. He has been enrolled in an average of 16 credit hours per trimester since attending GSU.

Student Senate is one extracurricular activity in which Hussein is very involved. In fact, he was just elected vice-president and wanted to thank Laura Vetrinaite for nominating him for the position.

He thinks the Student Senate is vital in allowing the student voice to be heard. Hussein will try as vice-president to maintain the student voice. He feels privileged to be a member of the senate and wants to thank its members, especially Jackson.

"I think Verna has a good heart," Hussein said.

He also wants to thank Sibbet for nominating him and for helping with Student Senate.

"Dr. Sibbet always helps students with advice," he said.

In addition to senate, this 27 year-old coaches soccer in Bridgeview during summers.

He loves playing sports, lifting weights and reading rare books. This is a special passion of his.

"Whenever I have time, I read," he said.

Hussein is an intern volunteer for the Cook County Adult Correctional system two days a week, keeping track of and counseling those on probation. He may stay in this type of work, but he is keeping his options open. But he does want to eventually hold an executive position. He said he wants to make big change in the world.

To keep himself motivated, Hussein relies on his own determination. He finds strength in his own will and keeps it simple.

"If I want to do something," he said, "I do it."

Hussein has many accomplishments, but gives a lot of people thanks for helping him. Three of his professors have made an impression on him. Heino, Dr. Dale Max, Dr. Bruce Wilson and Prof. Cyrana Mott are all teachers Hussein praises. Mott, he said, works hard with her students.

"He's a hard teacher," Hussein, said of Mott. "He's challenging."

Hussein has also been recognized as one of the Who's Who Among American College Students at GSU.

Student Reps Hear Budget Concerns at IBHE Meeting

By Kathleen Frossard

The Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee held its annual orientation meeting on Sept. 28 and 29 at the University of Illinois. Governors State University was represented by IBHE-SAC Representative Toure' Peck and Alternate Kathleen Frossard.

The Sept. 28 meeting began with a brief introduction, followed by three committee meetings. Both Peck and Frossard attended Public Universities sector meeting. Issues discussed included the possibility of new dorm rooms for Western Illinois University (WIU) and a health center for Southern Illinois University (SIU). The committee questioned the building of rooms at WIU, because of the high costs involved. The health center for SIU was questioned because Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) grant money may be used to pay for it. The MAP grant is the grant most financial applicants receive to pay tuition.

Members of the Budget Subcommittee discussed tuition increases that have been occurring recently and the direction that the committee

plans to take this year. The raise of tuition was questioned because many felt that the professors were not being adequately compensated by the increases. The committee wishes to increase public funding for the "central academic mission" while leaving other fees to be paid by the students.

During the Non-Academic Subcommittee meeting, the problem of universities using Social Security numbers as means of identifying their students was discussed. This is an issue Peck finds particularly important.

On Sept. 29, members were informed about the topics brought up in the previous day's sector meetings. Board members determined that the chair of IBHE-SAC should focus on the issue that professor's salaries were not being increased, while tuition was. Also, they recommended the chair question the usage of MAP money for the building of SIU's new facility in his statement to IBHE.

The meeting was a positive experience to both Peck and Frossard. "Overall, I think we accomplished something," Peck said. "We received valuable information to take back to our respective schools."

The Campus by the Lake

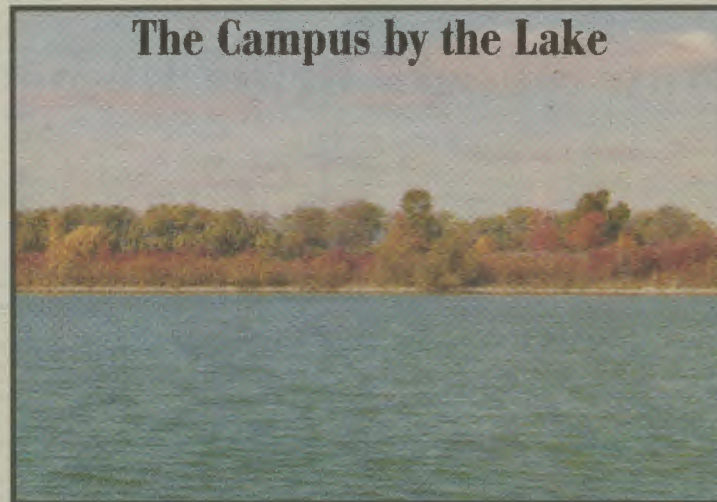


Photo by Robert Wysocki

Fall colors frame the blue lake behind campus.

Young Writer Begins Her Circle Journey

By Carole Schrock

Kristen Biksacky is a perfectionist. She's also proof positive that a dream can be achieved if you want it badly enough and you're willing to work for it. This English major at GSU has recently self-published *Circle*: A collection of selected poems and prose, her first published work and certainly her first book.

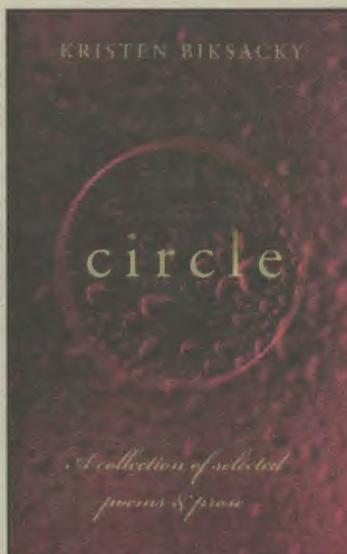
The dedication at the beginning of *Circle* includes her husband, family, friends, and interestingly, three GSU professors. Throughout her time at GSU Prof. Patricia Koutouzos, Dr. Rashidah Jaami' Muhammad and Dr. Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, professors of English, have influenced her greatly.

"I never studied rhetoric before and this opened my eyes to a whole new field of literature," said Biksacky about her first

class with Koutouzos. She also took a class called Methods of Teaching English with Koutouzos, who was her faculty adviser.

Biksacky began pursuing her master's degree at GSU in 1999, after receiving her bachelor's from Western Michigan University. Her first goal was to teach. She wants to continue in that field and she is currently an instructor at Lockport High School. Now, though, she's also professionally donning a writer's cap, releasing her first book of compiled works and persisting in writing a novel.

She has been attending GSU full-time since 2000, and in that time has witnessed what she calls "a different demeanor" here than at WMU. It was a logistic decision for her to come to GSU. It was near her home and it was affordable.



One thing she liked was the teacher-to-student ratio. The courses at WMU were larger. Here she receives more specialized attention.

"I can walk down the hall at GSU and my teachers know my name," she said.

She knows their names, too, and printed three on the dedication page of *Circle*. Koutouzos said she remembers Kristin worked very hard on her writing and pursuing her career. As Biksacky herself will readily admit, however, she is extremely thorough. Koutouzos said Biksacky had to think herself through some situations.

"Kristin is a perfectionist," said Koutouzos. "She's also a realist and she sees that those both can't exist on the same page."

Despite Biksacky's occasional struggles, "I didn't coddle her," insists Koutouzos. And when Biksacky presented Koutouzos with a collection of poetry, the professor saw how life's obstacles had produced a powerful poet.

"She was able to write vividly about emotions that she was

going through," Koutouzos said.

Two other GSU professors made a solid impression in Biksacky's creative foundation. Biksacky read August Wilson plays in Graduate Seminar: American Literature, taught by Muhammad. Biksacky credits her instructor's knowledge of the subject matter as a key element in her enjoyment of the class.

"Dr. Muhammad's thoughts on literature are amazing," she said.

Kilpatrick is no longer teaching at GSU, but when Biksacky had her as a professor, she was impressed by the care her teacher showed to students.

"She cared about you as a person as well as a student," she said.

Circle is poetry and prose about "life in general," according to See *CIRCLE*, page 7

WHO'S WHO @ GSU

Boyd Keeps People and Plants Alive on Campus

By Carole Schrock

She crochets afghans and carries a 9MM Ruger pistol on her hip. She can arrest you and make a mean stained-glass window. She's Sgt. Debra Boyd, a GSU police officer and a woman of many crafts.

Besides working full time as at sergeant in the Department of Public Safety on campus, she also teaches courses in stained-glass creation and seminars in stress management. She received her undergraduate degree from the GSU Board of Governors program and a master's degree in Communications. Currently working on a second master's in Public Administration, this busy woman shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

She began work in DPS in 1979 as a dispatcher and over the past 23 years, she has risen to the position of sergeant and been employee of the month twice. According to Boyd, this is just a stop along the way.

"My goal is to be chief of police," she says with a smile.

Boyd may move up in the ranks, but she appreciates her job every day. She enjoys working with professors. Since the university's student body is primarily female, she believes it is important to be sensitive to the needs of the families of GSU students.

Public safety was not her first calling. She wanted for a while to be an airline stewardess. Then, Boyd says, she got divorced and lost her job in the same week. The single mom then worked for the Department of Children and Family Services for a while. Finally, she found her niche at GSU.

GSU's campus officers are trained by the state and often give aid to surrounding towns. Campus officers take their job very seriously, as Boyd displays, and it shows.

"Statistically, Governors State University is the safest institution in the state," Boyd boasts.

Besides keeping campus safe, Boyd also keeps it green. Co-workers refer to her as "the plant lady" because of her potted good luck bamboo on a file cabinet near her office. That title should actually be "certified plant lady," since Boyd has earned certification in advanced master gardening from the University of Illinois.

She also enjoys bringing plants back from the dead. One room in the Department of Public Safety Boyd calls "the hospital" because of the collection of plants that rests there while she attempts to resurrect them. She also has been known to water the plants of faculty and staff who might be on vacation.

Boyd lives in Park Forest with her husband of 19 years and attends Hope Lutheran Church. Much of her time she devotes to the service of others. She

has been raising funds for Special Olympics for almost 15 years. This year, the Department of Public Safety, under Boyd's leadership, raised \$12,700. Proud of her accomplishments, she still is quick to mention others' accolades.

"I'd like to mention the efforts of Community Service Officer Al Berry, who single handedly raised \$9000," says Boyd.

In between saying hello to almost everyone that walks by, Boyd mentions some of her other efforts. She has served on many search committees for GSU, including two for president, two for vice president and two for chief of police. She gives university tours. She is vice president of the university's Civil Service Senate. She is president of the local Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 104. She also evaluates portfolios for the Board of Governors.

"GSU is my home, my family," Boyd says when she explains her devotion to the university. "Numerous staff have even fed me."

She enjoys keeping her home, her family safe. She hopes the Department of Public Safety will hire more full-time police officers soon. Boyd says she only has two rules for officers: Do the right thing for the right reason. And don't shoot anybody.

Boyd is ready to take her first vacation in many years. She will be traveling to Spain with the Alumni Association for ten days.

Someone Was Drunk When They Wrote This One "Punch-Drunk Love"

Starring Adam Sandler and Emily Watson
Directed by P.T. Anderson

By Zach Donaldson

The first thing that you have to ask yourself when deciding whether or not to see this movie is, "Do I know what I'm getting into?"

For all of you who think that Adam Sandler is the funniest thing ever, this isn't the movie for you. For all of you who are fans of director P.T. Anderson (myself included), this isn't the movie for you.

For those of you who are looking for a cute little romantic comedy that will make you laugh and cry, this isn't the movie for you. For those of you who are looking for an edgy indie film to prove to others that you are the artsy, introspective type, this isn't the movie for you.

For everyone else that is considering seeing this movie as anything more than a time killer, this isn't the movie for you. For those who are still here, keep reading.

Adam Sandler stars as Barry Egan, an introverted small businessman with seven nosy sisters that nag him incessantly. He's lonely and a little weird, prone to fits of rage. Barry then is introduced to Lena (Emily Watson), who finds his quirks, pudding hoarding and ubiquitous blue suit charming. The two dance the dance of love. Throw in a phone sex line, trailer trash extortionists, plungers and Frequent Flyer miles, and you have the gist of the movie.

Does it make any sense? No. It all feels contrived, like Anderson is just throwing odd-ball plot elements at the audience as an homage to David Lynch that makes only himself look like a fraud. Normally I'm a huge

fan of Anderson. "Boogie Nights" is my favorite movie of all time, and "Magnolia" is also great, albeit with a goofy ending.

"Punch-Drunk Love," however, is just a mishmash of strangeness that never really

goes anywhere or does anything. You wait and wait and wait for something significant to happen, and nothing ever really does. It's billed as a romantic comedy, and it does deserve kudos for sidestepping the clichés of that genre (#1 being the absence of Meg Ryan). In spite of all of its inherent goofiness, Anderson does try to show us a more realistic love story than is the norm.

Adam Sandler is another problem in the movie. He basically plays the lead role the same as he played "The Waterboy," except he's not funny. At all. All he does is mess with a discarded harmonium (alas,

no "Hanukkah Song") and obsess over Healthy Choice products.

Sandler is trying to show that he can play a straight role, so it's a "departure" from his normal idiotic foul-mouthed jock-boy routine that he's been beating to death since "Saturday Night Live." What, are we supposed to look at Sandler now and say, "Aaawww, he's such a sweetie pie, he's not really a jag?"

Emily Watson doesn't really serve much of a purpose here, either, looking somewhat glassy eyed and lost at times, which may just be a holdover from her recent role as a deceived blind girl in "Red Dragon." The result is a romantic comedy that isn't funny, one that also features a normally funny actor trying to be taken seriously who should never be taken seriously, and a writer/director who decided to make a movie with no direction and no point. Regardless of your motivation for seeing the film to begin with, you are bound to be disappointed in this effort. 4



Maher Mixes Political Fervor in His New Show

By Carole Schrock

Vehemence is underrated. In a world that some have called the most apathetic ever, passion is a lost quality. Especially when it comes to politics, people just don't care anymore. Now they have Bill Maher to care about them.

Maher is certainly not lacking in the zeal department. This comic, who hosted late-night "Politically Incorrect" for ten years, is well known for being very vocal about important social and political issues. "Politically Incorrect," often lauded by critics to be the only honest, frank political discussion on television, met its demise this summer to be replaced by a somewhat watered-down version of Comedy Central's testosterone tryst, "The Man Show."

With a bit more time on his hands, the popular pundit has written his fourth book, "When You Ride Alone, You Ride With Bin Laden," and will be appearing at the Center for Performing Arts on Nov. 16. This will be one stop along a tour of appearances and book signings throughout the country.

"When You Ride Alone..." discusses the ways that average U.S. citizen can help the country's situation. The book is subtitled "What the government should be telling us to fight the war on terrorism," and contains 33 essays written by Maher, along with modern mockups of propaganda posters reminiscent of those created 50 years ago.

"During World War II, the government encouraged the American people to plant a victory garden, save tin or just make sure their productivity was up," Maher said.

According to Maher, people still want to aid the war effort in this country and make a difference, but the government does not direct them toward actions that will help. And the people want to be directed, Maher said.

"I think people in this country want to help fight the war," he said. "The government is too pandering to us as citizens."

The poster on the book's cover, for example, is encouraging citizens to carpool and lessen the need for oil because, according to Maher, "Our enemies are fighting with money from oil." The poster is a reproduction of a poster that read, "When you ride alone, you ride with Hitler." The posters are projected on a screen on stage during Maher's show as he discusses them.

Maher's frank speech about the country's current conflicts isn't new for him, but he believes such candor is rare among the general news media. He thinks the country needs more people to speak out. People take cues, he said, from the media. But the news media are too concerned with poll ratings.

"People shouldn't watch what they say," he said. "That's for Iraq."

The topics are serious, but the show is funny, Maher said. As a comic, he knows he must sometimes take heavy stuff and make it humorous. So attendants should leave informed and entertained.

"I want people's bellies to be aching with laughter," Maher said.

The show at the Center for Performing Arts begins at 8 p.m. Call 708/235-2222 for tickets and information. The performance may contain strong language and may not be suitable for all people. Maher will be also doing a book signing at Borders bookstore on Michigan Ave. in Chicago at 2 p.m. the same day, Nov. 16.

The Phoenix is looking for reporters and an experienced layout designer.

If you would like to learn how to report or write for a newspaper, or you just want to get involved, contact Carole Schrock at X4517 or cshar2810@mail.govst.edu.

Student Senate Update

By Maher Hussein

GSU Student Senate is eager to promote the overall student performance during curricular and extracurricular activities, where skill-building and professionalism is needed.

Student Senate is committed to perform all the tasks needed to get the job done. We help students in almost every issue they are facing during their academic year, helping also solve the problems between students, administration, faculty and instructors.

We also organize and help in different activities on campus and in the surrounding areas. We have recently organized and assisted at the fourth annual Hands Across Southland at Prairie State College.

We organized a Halloween party, a Family Harvest Night where children and adults alike had a very good time, a Blood



From left to right, Verna Jackson, Pamela Thompson, Dortha Brown, Evelyn Taylor, Linda Williams and Karen Reynolds celebrate in style at the Harvest Party.

Drive in the E-Lounge (Nov. 11) and much more.

We also meet on a regular basis with staff and faculty from GSU such as University President Dr. Fagan, Provost Dr. Paul Keys, and many more of the directors who share with

us their different views and take our opinions about variety of subjects.

The Student Senate meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon in the Student Commons in A-building.

Meetings are open to all students. For more information, contact Executive Director of Student Life Lorraine Sibbet at 534-4555. You may also contact the senate office at 534-7056 or visit them in the Student Life area of A-building.

Circle, From page 5

to the writer. She includes some personal themes in the poems and essays. Also included are two totally fictional stories. Biksacky conjugates themes like love, depression and heartache. It is important to her as a writer to connect with her reader on an emotional level.

Biksacky is not afraid to whet her palate with more than one writing style. She claimed, though, that she has no one favorite piece she's written. There is one piece that stands out in Biksacky's mind from Circle. It is a free verse poem called "Thank You," dedicated to veterans of the Vietnam War.

She is currently preparing to publish a novel tentatively called "Orchards Point." With decisively dark themes but an overall message of hope, Biksacky hopes the novel will appeal to teenage girls. A more long-term goal is to complete work on a fictional, but "based on a true story," account of a soldier's experiences in Desert Storm.

Photo by Robert Wysocki

Web, From page 1

areas should be installed by mid-November.

The Student Web Information System is directly linked with the CARS administrative computer service the university currently uses to input and maintain student information. Since there is a direct link, students will not have to wait for information updates to the website. As soon as new or changed information is inputted into the CARS system, the website will reflect the update.

Students will also be able to change their PIN on the website, view information about their proficiency exams, awards and honors. The grade point average projection function is one that will come in especially handy for students on academic probation. They are able to input potential grades in fields on the screen for their current

classes and see what their cumulative grade point average will be if they attain those grades. This way, they can see what grades they must get in order to get off academic probation.

Security of the information on the website is an issue the Registrar was concerned with. A student entering the site must input their social security number and pin to access their account. Smith says they have been told by Information Technology Services that the system is safe and secure. Also, besides the grade point average projection function, the system is not interactive; it is merely for viewing. This cuts down on any potential information insecurity or tampering.

"We have to depend on our professionals here (in Information Technology Services)," said Smith.

The Registrar hopes these changes will be accepted positively by students. If students

do have any confusion or problems using the system, Smith encourages them to come to the Registrar's Office for help. Also, she welcomes student comments and suggestions for improvement.

"I'm all about continuous improvement," Smith said. "The students are our customers, and I have a listening ear."

Smith is excited about all the changes. She is used to dealing with so much paperwork, she said, it's been fun to do something creative like this.

"It's a good time to be a registrar," she said.

The registration committee is looking for student involvement. To be involved in the improvement of the registration process for new and continuing students, contact Polselli at the university at ext.3148. To offer comments or suggestions to the Registrar's Office, contact them at ext. 4500.

Grades, From page 1

to have a copy of their grades in their possession, the web grades will just be supplemental.

"We're not eliminating a service from students," Smith said. "We've enhanced it."

Students may fill out a request to have their grades sent to them through the conventional mail system. When they complete the form, they are also able to indicate that they would like their grades mailed to them for all subsequent trimesters. The form to have grades mailed must be submitted to the Registrar no later than one week following the end of the trimester for which grade mailing is being requested. To access the request for the official grade report, students can visit www.govst.edu/gradeinfo.

Smith says the elimination of mailing grades has been tried at other universities' registrars. She has received information from the Illinois Association of College Registrar and Administration Offices that the online systems have been successful. Many schools have stopped mailing grades and haven't had many requests to mail them.

It is not yet clear how much money the new electronic system will save the university. However, Smith stated, in the current economy, every little bit helps. The Registrar's Office also hopes this will be more efficient for students. No longer do students have to wait to get their grades in the mail.

Get out of line by going online



Get CASH for Books! Follett's Book Buyback Week December 2-7, 2002

Sell back your books at Follett GSU Bookstore.

(You cannot sell back your books online.)

Monday-Thursday	10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Save CASH. Buy books online!

- It's easy:
1. Go to www.govst.edu
 2. Click on resources
 3. Click on Bookstore, then follow instructions

Save Time! Get out of line!

When online, you can reserve your books for pick-up at the GSU Bookstore or have them shipped to you.

Never wait in line again!



It's here – Web registration at GSU!

To sign on to the Student Web Information System at www.govst.edu/online, enter your social security number (with dashes) for your user name, and your P.I.N. (used for Touchtone registration) for your password. Be sure to set the "Current Option Settings" to Winter 2003 and indicate whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student. Then click on the appropriate button to register or to view your records. **When registering online you must enter the course and section number.**

